CONFIDENTIAL

News Letter

San Francisco 2, Calif. — EXbrook 2-1671
Flood Building • 870 Market Street

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October 28, 1960

PERLUSS' VIEWS ON FORTHCOMING LEGISLATION VIEWED WITH INTEREST

In order to clarify a number of questions concerning recent "discrepancies" in wage survey results and techniques, Irving Perluss, Director, State Department of Employment, was invited to the last meeting of the Council's Board of Governors. After the survey situation had been thoroughly covered, Mr. Perluss commented on possible forthcoming legislation. Here, briefly, is a summary of Mr. Perluss' comments and predictions:

A MINIMUM WAGE BILL FOR AGRICULTURE will not be proposed by the Governor's office. It was stated, however, that such legislation "may be introduced" from "some other quarter" and that agriculture might well anticipate the introduction of such legislation.

In this vein, Mr. Perluss mentioned that discussions had been held, and will continue to be held, with the Governor, Director of Agriculture Warne, and Perluss along the lines of other wage "possibilities." One such possibility mentioned was the "regulating" of agriculture along the lines of a "public utility." This would set wages in much the same way as gas-water-electricity rates, etc. are established. Perluss stated that the "group" felt this would, perhaps, result in "too much government intervention," but have stated that it is a possibility.

STRIKES AT HARVEST TIME LEGISLATION must, Mr. Perluss indicated, also consider the side of organized labor. He stated that, in his opinion, were labor's position not considered, and, were a bill introduced by agriculture that would simply attempt to prevent strikes at harvest time, such a bill would never pass.

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION has also been discussed with the Governor, Warne and Perluss. In reporting on these discussions, Perluss indicated that the "group" felt such compulsory arbitration devices should only be used as a last result WHEN ALL OTHER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ATTEMPTS HAD FAILED.

HOT CARGO AND SECONDARY BOYCOTT LEGISLATION could also, Perluss indicated, be pending. It was stated that "growers might well consider protective legislation in this field" and not discount the possibility of the Teamsters and AWOC from "getting together."

STRANGER PICKETING was summarized by Perluss with the recommendation that agriculture "get together" with industry and come up with a plan to eliminate stranger picketing. If such a plan could establish a legislative precedent, overthrowing two existing State Supreme Court decisions, Perluss indicated that his Department would recognize it.

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RUMORED WITHDRAWAL OF UNION FROM TULARE COUNTY FALSE

Reports to the contrary, the AWOC has not withdrawn from Tulare County. Pickets have not been removed from five or six "struck" farms, nor, at this writing, have new picket lines been established. There is, at present, an ample supply of workers willing to cross the picket lines and the olive harvest in proceeding in good order. No violence has occurred and none is anticipated. The Sheriff's office is, however, reported to be maintaining a watchful eye on the proceedings.

LOCAL ACTION GROUP FORMED BY CORNING AREA GROWERS

One of the newest local farmer "action" groups formed in the State went into action in Corning recently to help insure olive growers in the area that their crops would be harvested in spite of increasing union activity in that area. The new group is known as the Corning Olive Growers Referral Office and has been formed for the purpose of recruiting and co-ordinating the movement of qualified domestic workers required to serve the labor needs of some 275 olive growers in the area. As of this writing, there are nine picket lines in the area, none of which has prevented the growers from carrying out their harvesting operations-----thanks to the well co-ordinated activitis of the Corning Olive Growers Referral Office.

EMPLOYER FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TAX INCREASE REPORTED

In a recent Information Bulletin to his members, Mr. J. J. Miller, Manager of the Agricultural Producers Labor Committee reported the details concerning the recent increase in employers' Federal UI tax rates, as well as increased UI State Tax requirements. Because of the significance of these moves and their effect on all of agriculture, we are passing along significant excerpts from Mr. Miller's Letter. Complete details can be obtained, either through APLC, 129 So. Alvarado St., Los Angeles 57, or through the San Francisco office of the Council.

New rate for Federal UI tax on employers, effective calendar year 1961 and thereafter, will jump from .3% to .4%.....the Taxable Wage Base for each employee remains the same at $3,000.

STATE RATES ALSO INVOLVED

In addition to the increased Federal rates, the following changes have also recently been put into effect in STATE UI Taxes:

1. Taxable wage base increased from $3,000 to $3,600 for each employee.
2. Zero rate dropped and maximum rate increased from 2.7% to 3.0%.
3. New tax added to minimum .2% for extended duration benefits.

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PEAR DECLINE MENACE GROWS

The mysterious pear decline which can literally kill apparently healthy trees in a matter of days continues to spread throughout the State's pear raising areas causing huge losses to producers wherever it hits.

So serious is the problem that the California State Board of Agriculture has urged the University of California, the California Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture to immediately undertake expanded research and other indicated action in order to curtail and suppress the serious pear tree decline. This appeal has been expressed in a resolution passed by the State Board which has also requested that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor arrange funds necessary to finance this emergency program for the current fiscal year. A request has also been made to the Congress of the United States and the California Legislature to make adequate budgetary provisions for continuation of such programs during the ensuing fiscal years until this serious problem can be solved.

PESTICIDE RESEARCH CONTINUES FOR FORTHCOMING PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

With the greatly appreciated assistance of Western Growers Association, the Council is currently researching and developing factual material on the ever growing "pesticide issue" for dissemination to the general public in the very near future.

Because of the great concern of the general public over this most misunderstood and over propagandized issue, the Council anticipates that a good deal of its overall public relations program will be devoted to this important issue.

A WORD OF THANKS

We wish to welcome our many new members and contributors who have joined us since our last NEWSLETTER. We appreciate the confidence in the Council which you have demonstrated through your support and financial assistance. We especially appreciate the personal notes which so many of you have taken the time to write on the membership applications which you have sent us.

This is your organization, so please let us hear your views and ideas. Again, our sincere thanks for your assistance, cooperation and very much appreciated notes and letters which you have been so kind to send us.

SAN JOSE CONFERENCE ON MIGRATORY WORKERS SUMMARY AVAILABLE FROM COUNCIL

Due to the amount of space required to fairly and accurately review the San Jose Conference on Migratory Workers held October 24 & 25, we are unable to cover this event in this NEWSLETTER. The affair was attended by a representative of the Council and full facts and information are available from the Council's San Francisco Office.

It must be pointed out, however, that some newspaper reports to the contrary, it was the general feeling of the convention that the farmers were not to blame for the existing lack of health, education and welfare benefits for migrant farm workers and their families. Rather, it was recognized as being a "social" problem and, consequently, a problem which all segments of California society must share. (Additional information available upon request.)

BALLOT PROPOSALS FOR NOVEMBER 8 ELECTION

Although every ballot proposal and candidate's record warrants the close study of every registered voter, the following propositions are of special interest and concern to California agriculture:

PROPOSITION #1 - The Water Bond Issue involving a $1,750,000,000 obligation for the purpose of developing the water resources of the State.

PROPOSITION #2 - The proposal to lengthen the term of Assemblymen from two to four years.

PROPOSITION #5 - The proposal which would raise legislators' salaries from $500 to $700 per month. (It should be noted that this proposition, if passed, would not, in itself, affect the pensions of persons now retired, although it would increase the pensions of legislators retiring in future years.)

PROPOSITION #15 - The proposed reapportionment of the State Senate. (It should be noted that this is the proposition that would set aside 20 of the 40 Senators for districts south of the Tehachapi Mountains (plus the Counties of: Kern, Tulare, San Luis Obispo, Mono and Inyo), reapportioning to the more populous counties Senatorial representatives as follows: Seven Senators to Los Angeles County; two each to San Francisco, San Diego, Santa Clara, Alameda and Orange Counties, and one each to the remaining districts which would also be reapportioned to consist of from one to nine counties.)

The Council respectfully urges you to thoroughly familiarize yourself with these propositions and the ramifications they could have were they passed. It is further suggested that you acquaint yourselves with the "pro and con" arguments set forth in the booklet which accompanies your Sample Ballot. It is also suggested that, in reviewing these arguments both for and against the various propositions, you also analyze the individuals and groups who have written these arguments.

STATE OFFICIAL PRAISES FARMER CRITICIZED SUPREME COURT RULINGS

As further proof of agriculture's contention that the position of this State's government is far from one of "neutrality" in the current farm labor crisis, the following quote is submitted for your consideration. This is an excerpt from the speech given before the California Labor Federation Convention in Sacramento recently by JOHN F. HENNING, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA:

"....and I would say that we must commend also the man without whose activity the success of farm workers to date would have been impossible: the Governor of California. And for this principal reason; the farm workers never could have gotton off their stomachs and faced the Di Giorgios and the great growers on terms of reasonable equality were it not that the liberal majority, Brown appointed Supreme Court legalized union labor's right of organizational picketing." "..... The Supreme Court decision on organizational picketing is beyond question the most significant labor decision issued by the State Supreme Court in the modern history of California."

For your information, the two Brown appointed Supreme Court Associate Justices are up for re-affirmation by the public on the Ballot for the November 8 election. They are Raymond E. Peters and Thomas P. White.

BE SURE TO VOTE.....BUT BE SURE THAT YOU ARE A WELL INFORMED VOTER...PLEASE NOTE VOTING RECORD ON KEY AGRICULTURAL ISSUES IN THE LAST SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE HEREIN.

Note: Some of you may wish to have the NEWSLETTER mailed directly to key people within your organization. If you do, please so advise this office.

1959
Voting Record
ASSEMBLY FLOOR

		LABOR BILL AB 419 for passage 4/16/59 44-34		MIN. WAGE AB 1223 for passage 4/8/59 44-35	
		Y	No	Y	No
Allen, Bruce	R		X		X
Allen, Don	D	O		O	
Backstrand	R		X		X
Bane	D	O		O	
Beaver	R		X		X
Bee	D		X	O	
Belotti	R		X		X
Biddick	D		X	O	
Bradley	R		X		X
Britschgi	R	O			X
Brown, Geo.	D	O		O	
Brown, Ralph	D	O			X
Burke	R		X		X
Burton	D	O		O	
Busterud	R		X	O	
Cameron	D	O		O	
Chapel	R	O			X
Collier	R		X		X
Conrad	R	-	-		X
Collidge	R		X	O	
Crawford	R	O		O	
Crown	D	O		O	
Cunningham	D	O		O	
Cusanovich	R		X		X
Dahl	R		X		X
Davis, Pauline	D		X	O	
DeLotto	D	O		O	
Dills	D	O		O	
Donahoe, Dorothy	D		X	O	
Elliott	D	O		O	
Francis	R		X		X
Frew	D	O		O	
Gaffney	D	O		O	
Garrigus	D	O		O	
Geddes, Ernest	R		X		X
Geddes, Sam	D	O		O	
Grant	R	O			X
Hanna	D	-	-		X
Hawkins	D	O		O	
Hegland	D		X		X

		LABOR BILL AB 419 for passage 4/16/59 44-34		MIN. WAGE AB 1223 for passage 4/8/59 44-35	
		Y	No	Y	No
Holmes	R		X		X
House	D		X		X
Johnson	R		X	-	-
Kennick	D	O		O	
Kilpatrick	D	O		O	
Lanterman	R		X		X
Levering	R		X		X
Lowrey	D	O			X
Luckel	R	O			X
Lunardi	D	O			X
MacBride	D	O		O	
Marks	R		X	O	
Masterson	D	O		O	
McCollister	R		X		X
McMillan	D	O		O	
Meyers	D	O		O	
Miller	D	O		O	
Mulford	R		X		X
Munnell	D	O		O	
Nisbet	D		X	O	
O'Connell	D	O		O	
Pattee	R		X		X
Petris	D	O		O	
Porter	D	O		O	
Reagan	R		X		X
Rees	D	O		O	
Rumford	D	O		O	
Schrade	R		X		X
Sedgwick	R		X		X
Shell	R		X		X
Sumner	R		X		X
Thelin	R		X		X
Thomas	D	O		O	
Unruh	D	O		O	
Waldie	D	O		O	
Williamson	D	O		O	
Willson, Geo.	D	O		O	
Wilson, Chas.	D	O		O	
Winton	D	O			X
Z'Berg	D	O		O	

X - Conservative
O - Liberal
- - Absent or not voting

COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA GROWERS
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EXbrook 2-1671

Separate Filed
Farm Organization ~~Growers~~ ~~Fate~~

CONFIDENTIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA GROWERS *News Letter*

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November 4, 1960

LABOR

Union activities, as of this writing, have greatly diminished throughout Northern California as harvesting operations draw to a close. The "last ditch" attempt to organize farm workers in Northern California this season (the current union drive in the olive groves of Corning) is turning out to be a near "flop."

Heady with their success in negotiating a Union Shop with one grower 80 years of age, (CCG Newsletters 10/18 & 10/28) the union soon realized that they had run into a stone wall as far as other growers in the area were concerned. Instead of weakening and dividing the farmers in the area as had been anticipated, the capitulation of this one grower, the methods employed and the resultant firing of his regular employees who would not join the union as was requested by AWOC as "terms of the agreement" actually united the other growers in the area into a strong action group. So successful were the growers in recruiting and coordinating the movement of non-union, volunteer workers that not a single loss was suffered by any of the growers "struck" in the area. In fact, so productive were the workers recruited that many growers actually had to take a three day holiday from harvesting until packing plants could "catch up" with the volume of fruit pouring in from picketed and non-picketed ranches.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS PROTEST PRO UNION - ANTI BRACERO POSITION OF PRIESTS

A group of Catholic students at the University of San Francisco have publicly protested, both to the Archbishop and the people of the State of California, the actions of two Catholic priests, the Reverend Thomas A. McCullough of Stockton and the Reverend Donald McDonnell of the Catholic Rural Life Conference for "...abusing their position and responsibilities as priests by publicly advocating the unionization of farm workers and the abolition of the Mexican National Program."

Following their protest to Church officials, the students, identifying themselves as the "JUSTICE FOR CALIFORNIA FARMERS COMMITTEE," presented their position as follows:

"When Norman Smith of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee says, 'These priests are the best organizers we have,' the University group told the Council, 'We think a terrible disservice is being done to thousands of Catholic farmers throughout the State. We also feel the actions of these priests can seriously hurt the reputation of the Church. That's why we feel it so important that our position, and the true position of the Catholic Church be made known to the general public.'"

PERLUSS' "LOSS OF FEDERAL FUNDS" ARGUMENT SHATTERED BY U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

In order to get the facts regarding whether or not the California State Department of Employment really has been threatened with withdrawal of federal funds, as Director Irving Perluss has long protested, if the Department were to accept the rulings of two California Superior Court Decisions, Council President, John V. Newman, went directly to the White House for the answer. After consideration by the President's office, the letter was referred to the U. S. Department of Labor. Here, briefly, is the position of Government, as clarified by Undersecretary of Labor, James T.O'Connell:

A. The Department has not threatened to withdraw Federal funds from the California Department of Employment in connection with labor dispute referral issues!

B. If a question of non-conformity should ever arise were the State to give statewide application to two California Supreme Court Decisions, as the growers have pleaded, no decision against the State would be reached without first having discussions, holding hearings and complying in every way with the regulations!

C. Furthermore, the Department of Labor has assured us that, in the event of a strike, the Department of Labor will make a separate investigation itself before suspending or withdrawing Mexican Nationals.

CATTLE FEEDERS' PROBLEMS INVESTIGATED BY COUNCIL

Ever increasing threats of restrictive local legislation against the Cattle Industry are being investigated by the Council, in anticipation of forthcoming public relations activities. Council staff is meeting with representatives of the cattle industry to obtain facts regarding the serious problem of diminishing feeding areas, a result of unfair legislation arising from prejudicial public opinion. Public relations program

will be discussed at the Cattlemen's Association meeting in Santa Barbara, December 9th and 10th.

COUNCIL CONTINUES TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES FOR MORE SOLID AGRICULTURE

In line with founding policies, the Council continues its program of coordinating activities for the maximum benefit of all of agriculture. Council Directors, members and staff will be meeting with two leading experts of Stanford Research Institute, Dr. Harris Benedict and Dr. Dale Coulson, as well as continuing discussions with Western Growers Association on the subject of pesticides. Council representatives are also meeting with the California-Arizona Potato Growers Association and the California Beet Growers Association to discuss the farm labor situation. O. W. Fillerup, Executive Vice President of the Council, will address the Dairy Advisory Board...his topic: "What's Being Done to Solve Agriculture's Public Relations Problems." In addition, he will later meet with key Oregon agricultural leaders to discuss the importance of public relations for agriculture, generally, and specifically how Oregon might go about an overall public relations program for her farmers similar to the Council's program for California.

WOMAN STAFF MEMBER JOINS COUNCIL FOR NEWSPAPER-RADIO-TELEVISION WOMAN EDITOR CONTACT

Although the Council has been extremely successful in establishing and maintaining excellent contact with city, labor and agricultural editors of the State's metropolitan and rural news media, one important area remained untouched...the women editors and correspondents who are playing an ever increasing role in influencing public opinion through their columns and "special report" series. To fill this important gap, the Council has obtained the services of a qualified writer to handle this assignment. Her name is Phyllis Read. Phyllis is a graduate of Cal-Poly. Very shortly we can all expect to see the results of her activities.

CURRENT AND FUTURE ANTI AGRICULTURE PROPAGANDA

Two items of interest in pointing out the continuing campaign being waged to place agriculture in a bad public opinion position are noted here for your information. One is the article, "End Child Labor Now," in the November issue of Good Housekeeping Magazine; the other is the forthcoming CBS program entitled, "Harvest of Shame" dealing with the migrant workers, which will be shown the evening following Thanksgiving Day.

In answer to the Good Housekeeping article, which strikingly brings home some of the misconceptions being perpetrated on the minds of urban residents concerning migrant laborers, the Council has written the editors of the magazine pointing out the fallacies and half-truths in the article. We have also requested the opportunity to present another article of our own in order to present facts to the readers of this magazine which dispute the one-sided and unfair statements appearing in the current issue.

The Council has also contacted Edward R. Murrow through his Executive Producer, Fred W. Friendly, at CBS in New York to offer our assistance in helping them fulfill their obligation as a responsible broadcaster to present both sides of this controversial issue. To date, the network has not accepted our offer. However, steps are being taken to suggest a "follow-up" to this program in which the farmers' position can be accurately reported. You will be kept advised of future developments.

The forthcoming CBS program, incidentally, is the one which the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee has "mentioned" on a number of occasions. We would appreciate your comments on the program and assure you that your views will be made known to the producers of the series and the CBS network as a whole.

IF YOUR NEWSLETTER IS NOT REACHING YOU PROMPTLY, PLEASE NOTIFY THIS OFFICE.

COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA GROWERS
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